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## **Molecular tools helps us to reveal the secrets of *Colletotrichum acutatum***

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*Colletotrichum acutatum*, causing strawberry black spot, was found on strawberries in Denmark for the first time in 2000. Later the same fungal species was also shown to cause disease in Danish cherry production. In other parts of the world strawberry black spot was a big problem for strawberry production, but it was not known how important the disease would be under Nordic conditions. Potentially the treat could be great as *C. acutatum* is known cause severe yield losses and to have a wide host range. Furthermore, it can be introduced to a field with plant carrying latent infections. Therefore, work was initiated with the aim to improve and develop detection techniques. During this work fungal isolates were collected from strawberry growers, and in the later years also cherry growers, with disease outbreaks. Using the molecular technique UP-PCR we have shown that there are differences in the pathogen populations between isolates originating from strawberry and isolates originating from cherry. As a consequence of this we are now working on the development of PCR-based methods that can detect the different *C. acutatum* sub-populations and we hope that these methods will be important tools in future management strategies of *C. acutatum*.